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ABSTRACT

This book is designed to assist the beginning searcher of those online systems that primarily provide information in the form of bibliographic citations. These systems also contain files in other formats that are designed to provide answers to reference-type questions. It is intended not only to provide basic "how-to" information on the use of such systems but also to raise topics on which there is not an accepted paradigm and to provide discussion of alternative points of view in a framework of previous research. Topics covered include: overview of online searching; search protocols; use of a command language; search design; controlled vocabulary searching; free-text searching; search interview; sophisticated search features and capabilities of online systems; multiple file searching; overview of citation indexes, full-text files, and reference databases; evaluation of searches; management issues; direct user access on online databases; and the Internet. (JLB)

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